

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB.

However, may we also suggest giving base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum.

If you decide the Forum is the right answer, we don't print callers' names.

To submit a Forum, send an e-mail to kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil, call 846-4240 or write to:

377 ABW/CC Forum
2000 Wyoming SE
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117.

Threat at gates

I think it's appropriate to note that force protection does not start at the gates of Kirtland Air Force Base. I'm sure everyone appreciates the outstanding job being done by the gate guards, and the necessity of ensuring that only authorized people have access to the base.

In 1993 Mir Aimal Kasi killed two people and wounded three by shooting at traffic backed up at the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters.

It doesn't do much good to protect facilities only to leave the people that work in those facilities virtual sitting ducks, stuck in traffic.

I come in the Eubank Gate. Most mornings the traffic is backed up past Southern making a few minute trip take 15 or 20 minutes. Not only is it a waste of gas, time and money but adds to pollution. And the frustration makes people do unsafe things. I've observed cars cutting in and out of the lanes on Eubank trying to get in the gate faster, coming close to causing accidents.

I've seen people cut across three lanes after entering the base, from the far left to the far right, no blinkers, across solid white lines in order to pass slower traffic entering in the right lanes. I observe people speeding every day on G Avenue, the NCO bypass and F Avenue because they are frustrated.

The answer is not to say to just be grateful. The situation needs to be addressed and remedied.

An astonishing amount of work goes into formulating a coherent, executable approach to managing our gates as one layer of our antiterrorism and force protection programs. Of course, we do this while we bring 25,000 cars a day onto Kirtland.

Among the latest developments



COL. HENRY L. ANDREWS, JR.

377th Air Base Wing commander

that address and contribute to remedies that reduce the wait to enter the base are

(1) the earlier opening of the Eubank Gate (5:30 a.m. vice 6 a.m.),

(2) permitting outbound afternoon rush hour routing around the Carlisle gate construction, and

(3) opening a third inbound lane at the Wyoming Gate beginning on Jan. 10.

This last item corresponds with the temporary inclusion of civilian contract guards in our total force protection capability (see article on the right side of this page). We'll get more information on this out to Team Kirtland as soon as we can.

In the meantime, please know we have other possible improvements in mind. Most importantly, though, while we are proud of the way we support the combined goals of security and installation access, we are never satisfied. Rest assured we'll keep seeking better ways to accomplish these vital tasks.

Subway

I am calling about the possibility of getting a Subway on the west side.

I look forward to hearing from you.

The Army Air Force Exchange Service will add a Subway concession at the corner of Aberdeen and Maxwell.

We have approved the site and are in the process of solicitation. We'll keep you posted on our progress as we look forward to having our own Subway and bringing other opportunities

like this to you.

Kudos to post office and McDonalds

Here is some praise for two groups of Team Kirtland I don't recall being mentioned in the Nucleus during the past four years.

I have never had less than a pleasant experience in the base post office. The employees are always efficient, fast and friendly, including now during the holiday mailing crunch. Even with a line, the wait is never long like outside the base.

Although trying to eat at the base McDonald's can be...interesting, I don't even see how the staff can do as well as they do. Every visit there seems to be a jillion people. What courage it must take for those employees to face the onslaught of hungry, hurrying people day after day, every day, especially at lunch times. If one of their jobs was my last option before losing my house, I think I'd seriously consider becoming homeless rather than need to do what they do day after day. I'd lose my mind.

I was customer 194 on Dec. 14 about 12:45 p.m. or so...the one who accidentally gave the server \$11 instead of two single ones but got back the correct change, had a relatively quick wait for my correct order despite the crowd.

So, thanks post office people and thanks McDonald's people.

It takes the combined efforts of literally thousands of dedicated folks to make Team Kirtland work. You make it very clear that our friends at the U.S. Postal Service and McDonald's are doing their part to make this base a great place to live, work and play. Thanks for helping us share the limelight with them.

Helpful customer service numbers

Chapel, 846-5691

CE Help Desk, 846-8222

Commissary, 846-9586

Computer help, 846-5926

Energy wasting, 846-4633

Exchange Service, 266-9887

Family Services, 846-0741

Finance, 846-8045, 846-6639

Law Enforcement, 846-7926

Legal Services, 846-4217

Medical Clinic, 846-3406

Services Squadron, 846-1828

Security augmentees returning to units

BY COL. HANK ANDREWS

377th Air Base Wing commander

Airmen assigned as security augmentees for Team Kirtland have been performing extremely well. My personal observation of their work when I transit the gates or work the gates myself during expanded ID checking periods in the morning rush reveals a motivated and professional group of Airmen who are enhancing security for everyone on this installation.

We should all be grateful that such high-quality folks have been assigned to this important task.

As we thought would occur when we recalled the security augmentation force in November, we are now planning to integrate a contracted guard force into our installation entry control operations, effective Jan. 7. As a result, after a brief transition period, it is our intent to release security augmentees back to their primary duty locations, effective Jan. 13.

In the coming year, however, we plan to keep our security augmentation force fresh and able to respond to the needs of the base. As such, we intend to recall a portion of the established force for several days each quarter for exercising, posting and participation in air base ground defense training.

We will, of course, give unit commanders as much notice as possible prior to these recalls.

In the end, these opportunities help to ensure Team Kirtland is ready to respond when world events require more robust security and higher force protection conditions. Additionally, we are ready, willing and able to train additional augmentees in an effort to give units maximum flexibility to respond when we do call their members in for exercise or real-world security needs.

One note – the contract guard force that joins us on the perimeter next month is funded through the end of fiscal 2005. At this juncture, we cannot tell you what our manpower situation will be on Oct. 1. We will, of course, keep you in the loop on any developments. However, it is certainly in the realm of the possible that a long-term recall of security augmentees could be on the plate for next fall. Just wanted everyone to know now.

In the meantime, we are very grateful for Team Kirtland's stalwart support. Thank you.

Happy holidays.

Briefly

Change of Command

The 377th Aerospace Medicine Squadron change of command ceremony is in the Rio Grande Conference Center, Jan. 3, 3 p.m. Col. Mary Ann Orzech will assume command from Col. Monique Ryser. Immediately following, Colonel Orzech will retire Colonel Ryser. For more information, please call Staff Sgt. Bradley at 846-3599.

Chief's Induction Ceremony

The 2005 Kirtland Air Force Base Chief's Induction Ceremony is Jan. 21, 6 p.m. in the Mountain View Club. Cost is \$25 for non-club members and \$23 for members. Dress is mess dress or semi-formal for military and coat and tie for civilian guests. RSVP to the Kirtland NCO Academy at 846-2137.

Wyoming visitor center closing weekday mornings for new lane

The visitor center at the Wyoming Gate will close 6-9 a.m., weekdays starting Jan. 10. "This is being done so that a third lane of traffic can be made to enter the base through the visitor center parking lot," said Senior Master Sgt. David L. Martens, 377th Security Forces Squadron operations superintendent. "Hopefully, it will help ease the traffic congestion at the gate."

The three lanes, created by opening the parking lot to inbound traffic, will merge into two lanes after the gate with the gate guards permitting entry on an alternating basis. There will be no change to the outbound lanes and the visitor centers at the other gates will operate as normal.

Holiday operating hours

Airman Leadership School

Classes out of session until January 2005

Auto Skills Center

Closed today; Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed New Year's Eve and Day

Bowling center

New Year's Eve, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.; closed New Year's Day

BX main store

New Year's Eve, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; New Year's Day, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Commissary

Closed New Year's Day

Car Care Center

New Year's Eve, 6 a.m.-7 p.m.; New Year's Day, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Child development centers

Closed New Year's Eve and Day

FamCamp

Closed New Year's Eve and Day

Family Child Care Center

Closed New Year's Eve and Day

Flight Center

Closed New Year's Day

Food court

New Year's Eve, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; New Year's Day, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Furniture store

New Year's Eve, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; closed New Year's Day

Gates:

Wyoming and Truman Gates open 24 hours every day; Gibson gate open every day, 5 a.m.-8 p.m.; South and Carlisle Gates closed New Year's Day; Eubank closed through Jan. 2

Indoor pool

Closed New Year's Eve and Day

Information, Tickets and Travel

Thursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; closed New Year's Eve and Day

Library

Closed through Jan. 2

Military Clothing store

New Year's Eve, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; closed New Year's Day.

Motor Vehicle Division

Closed New Year's Day

Mountain View Club

Open for special functions and New Year's Eve celebration; closed to general public through Jan. 2

Nonappropriated Funds Human Resources

Closed today

Outdoor Recreation

Thursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; closed New Year's Eve and Day

Skills Development Center

Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; closed New Year's Eve and Day

Thrift Shop

Closed New Year's Day

Thunderbird Inn Dining Facility

Continental breakfast 8-9 a.m. New Year's Day; lunch, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; dinner, 5-7 p.m.; uniform required for midnight, 10 p.m.-midnight

Tijeras Arroyo Golf Course

New Year's Eve, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.; closed New Year's Day

Veterinary Clinic

Closed New Year's Eve and Day

West Shoppette

New Year's Eve, 6 a.m.-3 p.m.; closed New Year's Day

Youth Center

Closed New Year's Eve and Day